THE CROSS-WORT BEDSTRAW.

(*Galium cruciatum.*)

Class, Tetrandria. Order, Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Rubiaceæ.

A number of Bedstraws are now in bloom, most of which bear white blossoms. The above mentioned species bears a yellow bloom, and is by some called the "Honey plant," from the strong scent of honey it gives if picked when the sun is shining upon it, and also from its having a sticky or clammy feel. The stem is four-sided, with four leaves in a whorl on the stem; the flowers are situated in the axil of the leaf, each blossom having four petals and four stamens. The White Water Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) grows about a foot and a half high in moist places, and bears a profusion of small white blossoms; the stem is brittle, and square, and the leaves are oblong, lance-shaped, and grow in whorls round the stem. The Yellow Bedstraw, (*G. verum*) grows in rocky places, and the smooth Heath Bedstraw, (*G. saxátile*), a small species bearing white blossoms, blooms in great quantities on our waste lands and mountains.

"On the desolate heath, all unnoted, unknown,
I've sprung up but a mean little flower,

Yet on me are the rays of the day ruler thrown,
And mine is the wealth of the shower.

"I feel the pure breeze as it sweeps o'er the ground,
Bringing health to leaf, blossom, and stem;
And the soft dews of evening encircle me round
With full many a crystal-like gem.

"Let me whisper it then both to simple and sage,
That I am (though so lowly my lot),
A legible letter in that beautiful page,
Which can hold neither error nor blot."

Most of the forest trees bloom this month, and upwards of thirty species of the Willow; and the following flowers are in blossom:—*Pasque flower Anemone* (Anemone Pulsatilla), in chalky pastures; *Blue mountain Anemone* (Anemone Appennina), in Bedfordshire, Essex, Harrow; *Solid rooted Corydalis* (Corydalis solida), rare—thickets, Hampshire, Birmingham; *Early Winter Cress* (Barbarea præcox), waste places; *Spring Vetch* (Vicia lathyroides), dry pastures; *Vernal water Starwort* (Callitriche verna), ditches and streams; *Purple mountain Saxifrage* (Saxifraga oppositifolia), moist alpine rocks; *Wild beaked Parsley* (Anthriscus sylvestris), hedge banks; *Common Corn Salad* (Fedia olitoria), banks in light soil; *Smooth narrow fruited Do.* (Fedia dentata), corn fields; *Spring Gentian* (Gentiana verna), rare, Alpine pastures; *Greater toothwort* (Lathræa squamaria), apparently parsitic on ha-

J. H. CLARK The Songs of the Seasons and Wild Flowers of the Months HALIFAX, 1851 CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN Octavo